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December 7, 2023

Mr. Felix Milburn
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey and Certification
Children and Adults Health Programs Group
7500 Security Boulevard
Mailstop: S2-0-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Milburn,

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS), MO HealthNet Division (MHD) is submitting this letter in order to request a close out of the demonstration project entitled “Targeted Benefits for Postpartum Women” (TBPW). Multiple factors have led to the decision to terminate the demonstration, including the following:

- The passing of Medicaid expansion in Missouri resulted in a reduced population of eligible women.
- The implementation of legislation, effective August 28, 2023, providing coverage for low-income postpartum women to include full benefits for a year following the end of their pregnancy offers a substantially more expansive benefit package for all women who would have been eligible for TBPW.
- The public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic allowed Missourians who would have been enrolled in the TBPW demonstration to retain Medicaid coverage during the pause of implementation. All women who received MO HealthNet benefits for pregnancy during this time continue to be in receipt of the full benefit package.

These changes in circumstances following Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ approval of the Targeted Benefits for Postpartum Women Demonstration allow postpartum women with substance use disorders to receive benefits at a higher level than those proposed in the demonstration. For this reason, the state respectfully requests the demonstration be closed. There were no members enrolled, and no services were provided through TBPW. The transition will be seamless for all potential participants.

AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

TDD / TTY: 800-735-2966

RELAY MISSOURI: 711

If there are additional actions required, or if you have questions concerning the close out of TBPW, contact Terri Woodward at terri.woodward@dss.mo.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Todd Richardson.

Todd Richardson
Director
MO HealthNet Division
Missouri Department of Social Services